

GOODNEWS LETTER
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THANKSGIVING

"And let the peace of God rule in you richly in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful," Col. 3:5.

What priced Freedom? President John Adams wrote on the Declaration of Independence, "*I am aware of the toil and blood and treasure it will cost us to maintain this declaration and support and defend these states...I can see the end worth all the means. This is our day of deliverance.*"

When I think of America on Thanksgiving Day, I always remember the men and women in the armed forces who keep our freedoms. Thank God for the soldiers; as well as, the leaders that have paid the price for our freedom.

As an American, I rejoice in our freedom. Like President Adams, I am aware of the cost of my freedom; both, as an American and as a saved child of God.

As an American, I realize that freedom is but for a moment. Therefore, I base my life on the blessings of the Spiritual world and the freedom that I have in sweet fellowship with God, His Son and the Holy Spirit.

In church or out, my heart sings the hymns that show my salvation that God granted to me when I trusted His Son. "**I'm Saved, Saved, Saved;**" "**Looking For A City;**" and, "**Bound For The Kingdom**" can be heard in the car or, anywhere. Now and then, you'll hear me sing "**God Bless America;**" along with, "**The Battle Hymn Of The Republic.**"

What price freedom? Spiritual freedom? The life of God's own Son, Jesus, the Christ. But, God raised Him from the dead to give mankind a glorious eternity.

So, I thank God for His Past-mercy - way back there, in 1959. But, I also thank God for His mercy that is a present reality. And, when I stare up to heaven in my heart, it places me on my tip-toes, (in my heart) awaiting His coming and the future resurrection. God's freedom is forever!

WITH THAT SMALL INTRODUCTION, allow me to show my *Thankfulness* unto the Lord for His **PAST, PRESENT** and **FUTURE SALVATION.**

1) I THANK GOD THAT I CAN SEE THE PAST SO CLEARLY

- a. "Jesus came into the world to save sinners," I Timothy 1:15.
- b. "Christ died for the ungodly," Romans 5:6b.
- c. "...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5:8b.

- d. "Even when we were dead in sins hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)," Ephesians 2:5.
- e. "For by grace are ye saved through faith;...it is a gift of God," Eph2:8.

2. I THANK GOD THAT I CAN REALIZE MY PURPOSE ON EARTH

- a. Jesus said, "...upon this rock (Christ) I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven..." Matthew 16:18.
- b. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them," Matthew 18:20.
- c. Jesus told His church to, "Go ye into all the world and teach all nations, baptizing them...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:19-20.
- d. Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth...the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven," Matthew 5:13, 14 & 16.

3. I THANK GOD THAT I CAN SEE THE COMING KINGDOM

- a. Jesus said, "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven," Matthew 13:11a.
- b. Jesus said, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear," Matthew 13:16.
- c. Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," Matthew 6:33.
- d. Jesus said, "After this manner therefore pray ye: 'Our Father which art in heaven...thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,'" Matthew 6:9, 10.
- e. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven," Matthew 7:21.
- f. Jesus said, "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing. Verily (truly) I say unto you, 'That he shall make him ruler over all his goods,'" Matthew 24:46 & 47.
- g. In his second letter to the church at Thessalonians, Paul said, "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith... which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye suffer," Ch. 1: 4, 5.
- h. Peter's 2nd letter records, "...make your calling and election sure (sure of): for such an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," 1:10, 11.

Be thankful, my friends! God has saved us by Christ's offering; is presently saving us through Christ's body, the church; and, shall save us by Christ's coming and the resurrection.

The Lord brings all of man, his spirit, soul (life) & body - into His salvation plan. We can say it this way: 1) God saved us, 2) He uses us, presently; and, 3) He rewards us with ruling and reigning with Jesus in the millennium.